Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 02080 200456Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 /063 W

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R 200355Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8343 INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, NP

SUBJECT: CALLS FOR REFORM MOUNT

REF: KATHMANDU 2016

1. IN ONE OF THE STRONGEST EDITORIALS TO APPEAR IN SEVERAL YEARS THE PRO-CHINESE PAPER SAMAJ HAS CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE BACK TO THE VILLAGE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE PAPER NOTES THAT "THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL HAVE NOW FOUND OUT HOW THEY HAVE BEEN IGNORED IN THE NAME OF 'CONSENSUS' AND THEYCAN NO LONGER TOLERATE THE SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM." SAMJ CONTINUES BY POINTING OUT THE "IRREGULARITIES" IN RECENT ELECTIONS TO THE PANCHAYAT WHICH "HAS RESULTED IN DISCONTENT AMONG THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PANCHAYAT WORKERS". THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT "THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL HAVE REACHED THE LIMIT OF THEIR PATIENCE AND WILL NO LONGER PUT UP WITH ELECTION BY CONSENSUS."

2. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANKA PRASAD ACHARYA, A LONG TIMEPROMOTER OF MORE DEMOCRATIC REFORMS, HAS APPROCAHED FORMER PRIME MINISTER M.P. KOIRALA (BROTHER OF JAILED B.P.,) EX-PRIME MINISTER SURYA BAHADUR THAPA, AS WELL AS SUBARAN S.J.B. RANA (LEADER OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS BOMDERATES) AND OTHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO FORMAND AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORM WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PALACE. ACHARYA ATTEMPTED TO WORK OUT A SIMILAR COMPROMISE IN 1975 BUT WAS FORCED TO BACK DOWN IN FACE OF PRESSURE FROM CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERN MENT, AN WE WOULD SUSPECT HIS CHANCES ARE NO BETTER NOW THAN IN THE PAST. NONETHELESS, THE PALACE IS CLEARLY LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVES AT THIS STAGE NOT ONLY TO QUELL DOMESTIC DISCONTENT

BUT ALSO TO MAKE A POLITICAL GESTURE TO THOSE PERSONS IN INDIA WHO HAVE CALLED FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY IN NEPAL. EAVES

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Message Attributes

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